

**From:** [Ken Houston](#)  
**To:** [DL - City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Cannabis ordinance  
**Date:** Monday, May 16, 2016 3:38:10 PM

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Hello city Council-member's I'm writing to respectfully say I am in Full support of the groundbreaking equity provisions in the Cannabis ordinance that will provide ownership and job opportunities for Oaklander's in the medical cannabis industry and address the disproportionate impact that the War on Drugs has had on people of color.

Our Black and Brown people have gone to jail for decades my friends and family for simple marijuana offenses. Yet the people who have benefited financially in this industry have primarily been non-minority males. My constituents and myself are asking Oakland City Council to change this and ensure that there is true equity in the Oakland Cannabis industry.

I'm asking that the City Council continue to vote yes and pass the Ordinance with the Brooks amendments by unanimous vote once again.

Thank you  
Ken Houston

# East Oakland Beautification Council



Meeting date | time 3/3/2014 2:00 PM | Meeting location 8055 Collins Drive, Oakland

Meeting called by Ken Houston

Type of meeting Cleaning Up Oakland

Facilitator Turner Group/EOBC

Note taker Ericka Bruce

Timekeeper Ericka Bruce/ Heather Ehmke

## Attendees:

Oakland Vice Mayor Larry Reid, Councilmember, District 7 | Desley Brooks, Councilmember, District 6 | Noel Gallo, Councilmember, District 5 | Paul Hora, Alameda County Assistant District Attorney | Kevin Dunleavy, Alameda County Assistant District Attorney | L. Karen Monroe, Associate Superintendent, Alameda County Office of Education | Dinah Benson, Community Member | Ken Benson, Budget Advisory Coordinator | Kirk Coleman, Oakland PD | Angelica Gums, Constituent Liaison to Nate Miley | Isabelle Mussard, JD, Safe Passages Policy Director | Debbie Hauser, Airport Area Business Association Executive Director | Maria Ramirez, Alexis Banquet Supply | Barmal Gran, President CEO, Afghan Media Broadcast Co. | Ken Epstein, Oakland Post | Teri Donnelly, Alameda County Social Services | Capt. Steven Tull, Oakland PD | Jazy Bonilla, Regional Director, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, | Olive Behashti, New York Life Insurance | Aaron Forkash, Aaron Metals Co. | Isaac Wilson, Oakland Building Services Inspection Supervisor | Greg Minor, Oakland City Administrator's Office | Joe Chavez, Oracle Arena | Richard Fuentes, BART | Phebia Richardson, Sobrante Park Time Banking | Jacqueline Orpilla, Assistant to State Assemblymember Rob Bonta | Jorge Velasco, AC Transit | Safia Quinn, Lee Davis & Associates | Marilyn Ababio, Alameda County Healthcare Services Agency | Leticia Jauregui, California Waste Solutions | Leroy Stokes, Director of Buildings & Grounds, Oakland Unified School District | Jeff Simpson, President, General Supply Company | Jonathan Brumfield Program, Manager, Get Active Urban Arts Program, Safe Passages

## Topic: Mission Statement/ Objective (Tanya Hawkins)

- Overview of Last Meeting: Identifying Solutions to illegal graffiti, illegal tagging & illegal dumping, Commitments Overview
  - Better lighting in areas
  - Boost surveillance
  - Proper reporting to District Attorney
  - Increase Signage
  - Corporate Sponsored Scholarships
  - Graffiti Cove
  - Punitive punishment for offenders ( including people coming to our city for illegal dumping and tagging)
- Mission Statement: To eradicate 50% illegal dumping & graffiti (using East Oakland as a footprint)
- Objective: To review status of commitments & assess next steps
- Use TGC Website to communicate with Council Members

## Topic: Personal Commitments/Deliverables (Ken Houston)

- Adopt-A-Spot : 77<sup>th</sup> , 105<sup>th</sup>/106<sup>th</sup> & San Leandro, Pippin, Railroad (These spots have been adopted by Ken Houston in conjunction with Public Works, Capt. K. Coleman from OPD, Councilmember Larry Reid & Mike Hester)

Before



After



- Future Goal: Facilitating meetings between “decision makers” & the community to encourage community members to come to the police & DA and report what they see happening

#### Topic: Personal Commitments/ Deliverables (Shelly Garza/Ken Houston/Safe Passages)

- Since the last meeting, through the efforts the committee , changes have been made within 90 days ( better lighting, increase surveillance, and reporting in adopt a spot areas
- In conjunction with Home Depot by placing dumpsters adjacent to its lot where people can dispose of trash properly, at the same time training people how to document dumping properly (most offenders are small contractors, landlords, etc.)
- Schedule future meetings: We want to be able to teach people what to look for to prosecute illegal dumping ( this will give the community the confidence they need to report the crimes)
- Increase Lighting and Signage : Public Works will put up lights (in 30 days) in the four Adopted A Spots that have been mentioned
- Corporate Scholarships: Krylon is backing the committee to bring a positive light to graffiti & the young people who express themselves through it
- Safe Passages Presentation : Isabelle, Nimrod, Alex, and Jonathan of Safe Passages has created a program called “Get Active” that educates young people on Urban Arts and the culture behind it (Social Justice & Expression). When young people see the graffiti murals it speaks to them it also helps to decrease illegal tagging because taggers respect urban artist. Urban Art allows young people express awareness of the history and the future of the community. The program teaches skill set such as: scaffolding, priming and also help students to achieve educational goals
- **We must embrace the culture because it’s not going anywhere**
- A lot of young people resort back to illegal tagging because they don’t get paid for their murals and there isn’t enough walls to use (Safe Passages has been able to combat that setback by paying artists with scrap books, spray paint and other tools needed.

#### Topic: Suggestions/Open discussion (Attendees)

- How can we help community members to understand the messages that are displayed In Urban Art?/ Although the Urban Art Culture may understand the messages steps need to be made so the community as a whole understands the vision of urban artist when they decide to put a mural up
  - We won’t be able to stop illegal dumping and Illegal graffiti but we can make it a goal to cut it in half/It’s important that community learn how to report properly
  - Lighting /Surveillance: Local offices need to be notified of these activities ( Create a checklist that people can use when they want to report an issue)
- 
- Help community to identify the difference between “tagging war” and urban art: most illegal graffiti isn’t from people of Oakland (when people come from other areas and they see tagging that doesn’t get removed it gives them the invitation to tag that area as “ their territory” (tagging war) Murals that are painted over these areas counter act these “wars”
  - Multiple strategies must be implemented if we are going to combat the negative influences that tagging has on our community, especially if the tagging is taking place by people who are not from our area/ **Community Aesthetic must be taken into consideration.**

- What can we do post mortem \*to help vandalism? GRAFFITI COVE, HEALTHY COMPETITION, URBAN ART EXHIBIT/SHOW

Topic: Soil Dumping (Ken Houston)

- There has to be prosecution (This can instill fear in other offenders to help prevent the repetition of this issue)
- **Put a face to offenders**
- A federal case has been opened to prosecute some offenders thus far

Topic: Closing “Next Steps” (Tanya Hawkins)

- Future meetings w/ Community (Locations & Times)
- How to report illegal dumping with proper documentation
- Home Depot & City of Oakland collaboration for “Clean Up” Days
- Volunteers/Task Force/ Informational Report
- Graffiti Cove
- **Next Meeting April 7, 2014**
- EPA should be involved in next meeting
- PSA sponsorship –Home Depot
- Contractors need to be trained on how to dump legally; Perhaps they think the process is to difficult
- Contacting public waste companies to train people: When does it become *too much* trash? / When do we report? The local agencies cannot do anything if nobody reports
- Use as a model contracts after other counties that have agencies to pick up trash and implement those ideas here
- California Waste Solutions (Ready to help)
- Waste Management need to do a better job of communicating with people and other agencies about the services that they can offer and how to depose of trash properly ( Social Media, newspaper)
- Use the resources that we already have available to get things done
- Cal-Trans Public Art Program
- **Make an outline of commitment that people would like to make and bring it to the next meeting**
- Have City Attorney’s to be at next meeting
- How can we get funding???





March 1, 2015

Councilmember Dan Kalb:

**This will serve to notify you that the San Leandro Street pilot ended on February 14, 2015.** This was the largest public-private graffiti cleanup project in the history of Oakland. It ran along the 2.25 mile stretch from the border of San Leandro to 69th Avenue and remained 96% graffiti free from May 14, 2014 to February 14, 2015. We ended the pilot to begin our case study which we will be providing to you soon.

Thank you for all your support and commitment on this project.

Best Regards,

KEN HOUSTON

Chair of the East Oakland Beautification Council

Tel: (510) 878-1399

Cell: (510) 690-5499

Email: [sonofoakland@gmail.com](mailto:sonofoakland@gmail.com)

Website: [www.eastobc.org](http://www.eastobc.org)

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# D7BC | MEETING MINUTES



Meeting date | time 1/27/2014 2:00 PM | Meeting location 8055 Collins Drive, Oakland

Meeting called by Ken Houston  
Type of meeting Cleaning Up Oakland  
Facilitator Turner Group/D7BC  
Note taker Ericka Bruce  
Timekeeper Ericka Bruce/ Heather Ehmke

## Attendees

Larry Reid, Vice Mayor, District 7 Councilmember | Desley Brooks, District 6 Councilmember | Tim White, Assistant Superintendent, OUSD | Stanley Roberts, KRON 4 | Ken Epstein, Oakland Post | Noel Gallo, District 5 Councilmember | Paul Figueroa, Assistant Chief of Police, Oakland PD | Len Turner, Turner Group Construction | Brooke Levin, Interim Director, Oakland Public Works | Frank Foster, Public Works Agency | Chris Wright, AEG Regional VP | Richard Fuentes, BART, Government & Community Relations | LaTanya Hawkins, Turner Group Construction | Community Members: Gladdis Green, Phebia Richardson, Ken Benson and Dinah Benson | Aaron Forkkash, Aaron Metals Co. Ken Dunleavy, Alameda Co District Attorney's Office | Brad Keams, Alameda DA Office | Kirk Coleman, OPD | Paul Hora, Alameda Co District Attorney, | Jeff Simpson, General Supply | Hellen Haivey, Community Reformed Church | Teri Donnelly, Alameda SSA | Maria Ramirez, Business Owner | Angelica Gums, Alameda Superintendent | Jacqueline Orpilla, ASM Bonta | Robert Raburn, BART | Frank Foster, PWA | Dexter English, PWA

Topic: Oakland as a whole is affected by the impact of graffiti and illegal dumping (Tanya)

- Overview of Power Point
- Hindering Ability to Attract & Retain business
- Decrease in: Property Value, Morale, Health, City Revenue
- Increase in Illegal Activity: Drug Use/Dealing, Crime (i.e. prostitution, gang violence etc.)

Topic: Previous Attempts: (Shelly)

- "Whistling Same Song" (Not due to lack of knowledge things are not getting done)
- Lack of Funding: How can we keep programs going?
- Litter Enforcement Officers (LEO's)
- "See,Click,Fix" application
- "Ground Roots" : Given lack of funding, we have to get our communities involved in order to bring about the changes we need to see.

Topic: "Magnet Theory"  $N = N$  ;  $P \neq N$  Suggested "New Solutions": (Ken, Tanya)

- "Remix the song" Incentive Programs, Scholarships, Gift Cards, Local & Corporate Sponsorship
- Companies are willing to get involved if they see communities getting involved in the issues of their cities
- Outlets: "Graffiti Wall"/"Artists Avenue" (Artist want to be seen and heard)

Topic: Issues (Attendees)

- "See,Click,Fix" Application; Notification Dumping Removal Complete (Need to Validate Prior to Sending)
- Not having access to dumping areas ( "Dumping War")
- Health Issues ( child with "RED BALLON")

- Short Staff: Things that use to take the city 4-7 days to clean up now take up to two weeks because lack of staffing
- Previously respected areas/places are no longer off limits

Topic: Solutions: (Attendees)

- “Clean Up Days” City and Community ( [not only clean up but also provide trucks \[WM\] to have garbage hauled away properly](#) )
- Educate: People need to know resources & consequences of illegal graffiti & dumping
- Monitor unfenced areas
- Waste Management needs to get involved 100%
- Social Media : Counties, Cities and other Agencies across the board need to work together to pass information to catch criminals (BART has taken action in this regard already)
- Bike Patrol in some areas
- Campaign!!!! “Zero Tolerance” Policy
- Resources from the D.A & OPD
- Video Surveillance to DA Capturing
- offenders in order to prosecute
- Need Campaign for the long-run

Idea:

Have tenants sign an arrgment stating if they move or are evicted they must dispose of things legally with a receipt or some type of proof that it has been deposed properly

“There has to be a culture change”

Clean Up

3-Armed S

Prevention

Educate

- Partnership between Schools and Cities
- Pro-active Camera Systems
- Remove dumping & graffiti as soon as possible
- Resources from businesses/sponsorships

### 3 Categories of Interest

- a. **Industrial Illegal Dumping:** Companies make financial gain by having people illegally dump products; have companies become more responsible about who they hire to dump trash and where it's being transported. Need consequences and
- b. **Law & Government:** Bring evidence that the DA can use to prosecute criminals. Create heavier penalties for crimes. Make these individuals examples.
- c. **Community Incentives :** Inspire neighborhoods to healthy competition, award those in the community for their hard work and involvement in trying to help

#### Potential Road Blocks

- a. No communication between agencies and organizations : 'agencies have a mentality of "everyman for himself" or its not in my district or area so it's not my responsibility' –we all must come together
- b. Where is Waste Management???????
- c. Dumping and illegal graffiti are not priority in Oakland
- d. Incentives...when residents should already have pride in their City
- e. Dumping from other cities (i.e. mail with outside addresses)
- f. DA doesn't get enough evidence to prosecute criminals; No cases as of now?

### Commitments of attendees:

Top 3 will be Topic of Discussion for Next Meeting

COMMITMENTS		
Council "Leader"	Agency	Commitment
Entire Council	All	Identify 2-3 Spots for Designated Cleaning
Tim White	Oakland Unified School District	Create School Competitions featuring "Clean-up, Education, and Prevention"
Entire Council	All	Identify Corporate Sponsors for Funding
Phebia Richardson	SPTB	Provide Names and Descriptions of People Illegally Dumping
Ken Benson	District 7/BAC	Study about Dumping and How to get Community Involved and How to Create more Outreach Programs
Dexter English	PWA	Remove Illegal waste as soon as possible (3-day turn around hopefully)
Frank Foster	PWA	Return to next meeting with information on strategies
Paul Hora	Alameda County DA Office	Prosecute Criminals upon receiving cases with sufficient evidence
Brad Keams	Alameda County DA Office	Work with DA to prosecute criminals
Helen Harvey	Community Reformed Church	Make sure property/area is kept clean



Angelica Guns	Alameda County Superintendent	More policies/how to resolve issues/ "Click & Fix" more
Dinah Benson	District 7	Come up with Government Solutions
Kevin Dunleavy	Alameda County DA Office	Work with prosecution to follow-up and make sure justice is carried out
Maria Ramirez	Oakland Business Owner	Work with Property Owner
Paul Figueroa	Oakland PD	Work with other Agencies to help/get involved in and challenge other organizations to help/get contact names of Environmentalist
Kirk Coleman	Oakland PD	Early and Late Night Surveillance/Community Participation/Teach Community What to Look for
Richard Frenls	BART	Continue to clean surrounding areas of BART; Continued Surveillance. Clean-up Day Broadcast
Aaron Forkash	Aaron Metals	Continue to pick up and remove trash. Avail trucks for pick-ups
Teri Donnelly	Alameda County Social Services Agency	Get Cal-Works participants to participate in Community Service given this is their home
Ken Houston	Turner Group Construction	"Adopt a Spot" his block; Surveillance Area and Provide to DA

**From:** [Heather Ehmke](#)  
**To:** [Kalb, Dan](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Debris Box Request for the East Oakland Beautification Council  
**Date:** Sunday, April 06, 2014 8:47:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [Debris Box Request CMDK.pdf](#)

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Dear Council Member Kalb:

I apologize for my urgency in pushing for the Debris Box Request form (attached). However, I really need a copy by noon on Monday (4/7) so that we can begin organizing with Waste Management for Saturday's drop off date (4/12).

Thanks. See you tomorrow.

Ken Houston, Chair  
East Oakland Beautification Council

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Heather Ehmke <hehmke@att.net>  
**To:** Dan Kalb <dkalb@oaklandnet.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 4, 2014 1:00 PM  
**Subject:** Debris Box Request for the East Oakland Beautification Council

Dear Council Member Kalb:

Please find attached the Debris Box Request form that I submitted yesterday (April 3, 2014). I will be down at City Hall this afternoon, Is it possible for you to make a copy of the signed request form and leave it at the front desk for my pick up today. The five (5) boxes for this event will begin on 4/12/14 through 4/16/14.

Thank you so much for supporting the East Oakland Beautification Council to eradicate illegal dumping.

Ken Houston, Chair  
East Oakland Beautification Council

## FOR COUNCIL/ MAYOR APPROVAL ONLY

- > Service District # \_\_\_\_\_  
 > Council Member \_\_\_\_\_  
 > Council District \_\_\_\_\_  
 > Signature \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OF OAKLAND  
 Public Works Agency - Environmental Services  
 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 5301  
 Oakland, CA 94612-2034

ATTENTION: Councilmember  
 DAN KALB

RECEIVED  
 CITY COUNCIL OFFICE

14 APR -3 PM 1:36

COUNCIL/MAYOR DEBRIS BOX PROGRAM  
 DEBRIS BOX REQUEST/AGREEMENT

## Exact location where box will be placed:

BOSS COLLINS DR, 800 77<sup>TH</sup> AVE  
 750 LOUISIANA ST, 10500 SAN LEANDRO ST. "OAKLAND"

- Name of responsible party: Ken Houston
- Address (for responsible party): \_\_\_\_\_
- Daytime phone, cell phone, fax number: 510-499-7379 (Heather Ehmske)  
 (Daytime phone) (Cell Phone) (Fax)
- Type of event: Community Clean Up
- Date of event: 4-12-14 to 4-16-14
- Desired delivery date: \_\_\_\_\_
- Desired pickup date: \_\_\_\_\_
- Box Size: (14 Cu. Yd., 20 Cu. Yd. or 30 Cu. Yd.) • Number of boxes: 5
- Approximate number of properties (households) involved with this event: \_\_\_\_\_
- List items to be placed in box: Household and some construction
- Provide exact location where box will be placed (e.g.: In front of house at 6500 Main Street) (Maps are welcome): \_\_\_\_\_
- Name, phone, and department of City staff involved with this event (if any): \_\_\_\_\_
- Have you used the Debris Box Program in the past? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- If, yes what was the event? community clean ups
- If you need assistance with tools and/or bags for this event, please call Keep Oakland Clean & Beautiful (KOCB) at (510) 434-5113.

## DEBRIS BOX PROGRAM GUIDELINES

- Debris boxes should be placed in a secure and visible location to prevent illegal dumping.
- Debris boxes should not be placed in vacant lots or areas not monitored that would invite illegal dumping.
- Plant debris cannot be mixed with trash, per a countywide ban on landfill disposal of plant debris. Please order separate debris boxes for plant debris and trash, or call the Recycling Hotline (238-SAVE [7283]) for assistance.
- Please **DO NOT** place the following in the debris box: **appliances** (refrigerators, washers, dryers, air conditioners, etc.), **electronic goods** (computers, televisions, cell phones, anything with a cord or battery), or **tires**. Call Waste Management of Alameda County at 613-8710 for proper disposal.
- Please **DO NOT** place **hazardous materials** the debris box, including gasoline, motor oil, asbestos, paint, chemicals, liquids, etc.. Call Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste at 800-606-6606 for proper disposal.
- Dirt, rocks and concrete** are only allowed to be deposited in 6 cubic-yard boxes.
- NO** materials should be left outside debris box.
- Use of debris boxes should not be publicized in or by the press in connection with the event being held.
- Attached are additional guidelines from Waste Management of Alameda County regarding Debris Box service.

I, Ken Houston, have read and understand the guidelines outlined above and promise to  
 (Please PRINT your name) comply with the guidelines to the best of my ability.

(Please SIGN your name)

(Date)

Please call your City Councilmember if you have any questions.

For questions regarding what is and is not acceptable for disposal in the debris box, please call the Recycling Hotline at 510-238-SAVE (7283).

Please return this form to your City Councilmember for approval and debris box delivery coordination no later than two weeks before the delivery date.

Distribution: Responsible Party  
 Councilmember Aide: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Frank Foster  
 Brian Carthan

Waste Management of Alameda County Use Only

Confirmation Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**From:** [Heather Ehmke](#)  
**To:** [Luby, Oliver](#)  
**Cc:** [Kalb, Dan](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: East Oakland Beatification Council  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 3:46:10 PM  
**Attachments:** [3 3 2014East Oakland Beautification Minutes Updated 3.11.2014.pdf](#)  
[ATT00001.c](#)  
[ATT00001.c](#)  
[ATT00002.c](#)  
[D7BC 1.27.2014 Meeting Minutes R.docx](#)

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Hello, Oliver. I am Ken Houston's Executive Assistant and Secretary of the East Oakland Beautification Council.

Per Ken Houston's discussion with Councilmember Kalb last week at Rules (March 19), we are resending this email to you in connection with his commitment of at least two dumpsters. As of now, six councilmembers have committed dumpsters to the cause. Mr. Kalb's commitment will make it seven.

Heather Ehmke  
Executive Assistant to Ken Houston  
East Oakland Beautification Council  
[hehmke@att.net](mailto:hehmke@att.net)  
(510) 499-7379

Good morning Council Member Kalb

Council Member Kalb, I'm not sure if you have seen or have been following the efforts I have spearheaded in the last 90 days with regards to the East Oakland Beautification Council (EOBC) to reduce illegal dumping and graffiti in Oakland. Please see attached minutes from the two meetings to date and the commitments from stakeholders and public officials, from Public Works all the way to the Alameda County District Attorney's office. Friday I sat down with the United States Inspector General and the FBI to discuss prosecution of some gross dumpers.

Council Member Kalb, as you know, East Oakland is plagued with illegal dumping and graffiti. To date I had commitments from four council members, but yesterday Libby made a commitment now we have five to donate dumpsters to this needed cause. I am asking you to please commit some dumpsters to this cause, and if so, how many could you contribute.

Thank you.  
Ken Houston  
Chair  
East Oakland Beautification Council







**NEWSFLASH.....Update from Ken Houston, Chair of the East Oakland Beautification Council – May 20, 2014**

**Operation Clean Sweep was a great success! Graffiti Cove has been launched!**

Last week, the East Oakland Beautification Council joined forces with **Oakland Public Works, Union Pacific Railroad, and BART** to launch a full-out assault on illegal graffiti in our Footprint on the San Leandro Street corridor. In addition, with dumpsters supplied by councilmembers, the underpass of BART and the right-of-way of the Union Pacific Railroad was cleared of 150 cubic yards of debris, including the removal of an abandoned homeless encampment that had left waste, including hypodermic needles, along a fence adjacent to an elementary school.

**Operation Clean Sweep** began at the Oakland-San Leandro border and made its down San Leandro Street to 69<sup>th</sup> Avenue with 2.25 miles of fresh paint on fences, buildings, columns and street fixtures. It would be worth your while to drive down that corridor to see the dramatic change. With the support of the **Day Labor Center, DB Painting, Turner Group Construction, General Supply Company, Broadway Mechanical Contractors**, community residents, and other business stakeholders, the graffiti on the San Leandro Street corridor was eradicated. The project was an enormous undertaking and took five days to complete. This sweep could not have happened without the support of **Heidi McAuliffe** of the **Graffiti Resource Council** in Washington DC and **Recology** that donated 250 gallons of paint.

In addition to Operation Clean Sweep, the EOBC launched **Graffiti Cove**, an area designed to encourage artists and writers to showcase their art. The 25-foot high marquis was installed on San Leandro Street between 77<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Both Graffiti Cove and Operation Clean Sweep were featured on Channel 4 news:

Sneak Peak of Graffiti Cove –5/13/14

<http://news.kron4.com/news/only-on-kron-4-graffiti-cove>

Operation Clean Sweep 5/14/14

<http://news.kron4.com/features/people-behaving-badly-operation-clean-sweep>

Thanks to the support of all of the EOBC members, the blight that has plagued Oakland for so many years is finally being eliminated within the Footprint along the San Leandro Street corridor.

The next EOBC meeting will be forthcoming at the end of June.

**From:** [Heather Ehmke](#)  
**To:** [Reid, Larry](#); [Brooks, Desley](#); [Kernighan, Pat](#); [Kaplan, Rebecca](#); [Kalb, Dan](#); [McElhaney, Lynette](#); [Schaaf, Libby](#); [Gallo, Noel](#)  
**Subject:** Newsflash/Update from the East Oakland Beautification Council - Operation Clean Sweep and Graffiti Cove  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 20, 2014 9:14:38 PM  
**Attachments:** [News Flash 5-20-14.pdf](#)

---

Hello, City Council Members:

Last week, the East Oakland Beautification Council joined forces with **Oakland Public Works, Union Pacific Railroad**, and **BART** to launch a full-out assault on illegal graffiti in our Footprint on the San Leandro Street corridor. In addition, with dumpsters supplied by councilmembers, the underpass of BART and the right-of-way of the Union Pacific Railroad was cleared of 150 cubic yards of debris, including the removal of an abandoned homeless encampment that had left waste, including hypodermic needles, along a fence adjacent to an elementary school.

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Ken Houston

Chair of the East Oakland Beautification Council

(510) 499-7379



**From:** [Ken Houston](#)  
**To:** [Kalb, Dan](#)  
**Subject:** Notice--San Leandro Street Pilot Closed as of 2/14/15  
**Date:** Sunday, March 15, 2015 6:17:27 PM  
**Attachments:** [3-1-15 update CM Kalb.pdf](#)

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Please see attached.

**From:** [Heather Ehmke](#)  
**To:** [Heather Ehmke](#)  
**Subject:** Update from the East Oakland Beautification Council  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 06, 2015 8:16:52 PM

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## **East Oakland Beautification Council U P D A T E**

Hello, EOBC supporters. The following is our quarterly update and a snapshot of some of the advances we have gained.

First off, I would like to thank everyone for any and all support, direction, and suggestions which assisted in the creation of the EOBC's Illegal Graffiti Case Studies and Best Practices Manual which was introduced at the United States Mayoral Conference in San Francisco on June 19-22, 2015. The Case Studies and Best Practices manual is 95% complete and will be introduced in 2016.

In August 2015 we were asked by the Mary Ann Wright Foundation to adopt their building in West Oakland. The building which is used to collect and sort food for the disadvantaged had been targeted by graffiti vandals for years. When Mother Wright died in May of 2009, the Foundation was feeding more than 450 people per day. The Foundation feels that the graffiti dishonors the memory of Mother Wright and the work that she did. In August the EOBC came out to collect data and abate the graffiti on our building. Additionally the EOBC monitors the building for any reappearance of graffiti tags and de-tag. This work helps to restore faith in this community.

In September our chair, Ken Houston, was been asked to join the Cease Network with the District Attorney's office on how illegal activities intertwine with sex trafficking.

Recently the EOBC was asked to give a presentation to the Special Public Works Committee at City Hall on 10/29/15 by EOBC supporter President *pro tem* Larry Reid because he knows first-hand the effects it has on our communities. Thank you for your continuous support, Councilmember Reid.

On a sad note, on the same day the EOBC was giving its presentation at City Hall, a young muralist was murdered on some of the same subject matters we were discussing in our presentation. We would like to extend our condolences to the family as this was a tragic blow to the artist community and to Oakland as a whole. This event only emphasizes the need for communities to come together in their beautification efforts. This can only take place if the issues of severe blight are addressed.

Thank you again for your continuous support.

Ken Houston  
Chair of the East Oakland Beautification Council  
(510) 878-1399  
[sonofoakland@gmail.com](mailto:sonofoakland@gmail.com)  
<http://www.eastobc.org>

**From:** [Ken Houston](#)  
**To:** [McElhaney, Lynette](#); [Kernighan, Pat](#); [Kalb, Dan](#); [Gallo, Noel](#); [Schaaf, Libby](#); [Kaplan, Rebecca](#); [Reid, Larry](#); [Brooks, Desley](#)  
**Cc:** [Ken Houston](#)  
**Subject:** Status Update and Support Appreciation  
**Date:** Monday, May 12, 2014 6:59:19 AM  
**Attachments:** [IMG\\_0878.MOV](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)  
[ATT00002.htm](#)

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## **EAST OAKLAND BEAUTIFICATION COUNCIL**

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### **Status Update and Support Appreciation**

Hello, City Council Members

I would personally like to thank each and every one of you for the 100% participation in the dumpster donations to me, which ultimately supported the East Oakland Beautification Council's footprint and towards my environmental efforts that are attacking the two unhealthy issues that Oakland faces today. The first which is physical ( illegal dumping ), and the second which is visual ( illegal graffiti ).

As the Chair of the East Oakland Beautification Council, we have engaged community members, business stakeholders, Oakland Public Works, the FBI, U.S. Inspector General, Alameda County District Attorney, Peralta Community School District, Oakland Unified School District, the Oakland Police Department, and many others whom are supporting this mission.

<http://blog.oaklandxings.com/2014/04/local-resident-ken-houston-working-overcome-illegal-dumping-graffiti/>

Post News Group— *Oakland Post* April 4, 2014

In the next seven (7) days, we are launching a full-on assault towards illegal graffiti within the footprint of District 7 with an embracement factor, of which I will keep you updated on.

Please find below the status of the donated dumpster count and usage

#### **Councilmember Lynette McElhaney**

Dumpster contribution 1

Supplied for Hot Spot: 105th and San Leandro Blvd

Status: Clean to date